

## REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 4, 13-14, 16, 19-20, and 22-23 will be amended and claims 2-39, 11-12, 15, and 21 will be canceled. No new matter has been added, and Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of previously pending claims in this application and in other applications. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claims 17-18 are allowed.

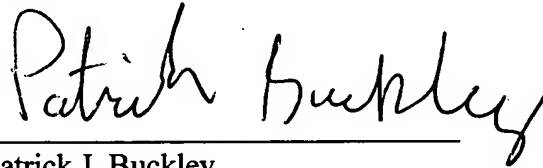
Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that previously pending claims 3-4 contained allowable subject matter. The limitations of claim 3 have been added to the independent claims. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the present application.

Applicant's silence with respect to other statements in the Office Action (*e.g.*, regarding various dependent claims) does not imply agreement with those statements.

## CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,



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